

MOST IMMEDIATE
IMPORTANT

No. V-17013/18/2025-PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

Women Safety Division, 2nd Floor
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium
India Gate, New Delhi-110001
May 2, 2025

To

- 1. The Chief Secretary of all States and UTs**
- 2. The DG/IG Prisons of all States and UTs**

Subject: Addressing the special needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) prisoners - implementation of 'Accessibility Standards' in Prison Infrastructure and amendment in the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023.

Sir/ Madam,

As you are aware, the Government of India had enacted the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** with the objective of ensuring equality, dignity and inclusion for persons with disabilities.

2. In line with the provisions of the said Act and the Rules framed thereunder, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had formulated and notified the '*Accessibility Standards and Guidelines for Police Stations, Prisons & Disaster Mitigation Centres*' on 02.01.2024. These guidelines include '*Standards for Modern Prison/ Jail Buildings*' wherein a national level architectural design for prisons equipped with accessible routes/pathways and ramps, parking, entrance to the building, corridors, toilets, doors, signage, etc. has been provided.

3. Persons with disabilities, when incarcerated, may face marginalization due to lack of suitable accommodations in Prisons and correctional facilities. Accessible prisons uphold the principles of dignity, equality, and non-discrimination, enabling inmates with disabilities to participate fully in prison life, access healthcare, rehabilitation, education, etc. on an equal basis with

others. It is therefore imperative to reimagine prisons as inclusive spaces that protect and promote the rights of all inmates, including those with disabilities.

4. The **Standards for Modern Prison/Jail Buildings**, as notified by MHA in the Gazette of India on 02.01.2024, are hereby forwarded to all States/ UTs. All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are requested to take note of the Standards under reference and take necessary action for incorporating the accessibility standards in their current jail set-up as well as in their upcoming prison infrastructure projects. Necessary steps may also be initiated to adapt and retrofit the existing prison facilities for ensuring compliance with these standards, thereby making prison infrastructure accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

5. It may be recalled that the Ministry of Home Affairs had forwarded a **Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act**, providing comprehensive guidance on various aspects of prisons and correctional services administration to all States and Union Territories on **10th May 2023**, advising them to use it as a framework for revising and updating the prison laws in their respective jurisdictions.

6. For addressing the needs of prisoners with disabilities, a new provision titled **“Rights and Facilities for Prisoners with Disabilities”** has been added under **Section 55(B) in Chapter XXI – Miscellaneous** of the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 which is as under:

i) Non-Discrimination:

No prisoner shall be discriminated against on grounds of disability. All prisoners with disabilities shall be entitled to equality, dignity, and respect for their integrity on an equal basis with others.

ii) Accessibility:

All prison infrastructure, including cells, toilets, medical units, educational and vocational training centres, and grievance redressal systems, shall be made accessible in accordance with the standards specified under the *‘Accessibility Standards and Guidelines’* notified by MHA.

iii) Healthcare and Rehabilitation:

Persons with disabilities shall be provided with appropriate healthcare, including psychiatric and psychological services, as well as access to rehabilitation programs and therapies.

iv) Screening and Identification:

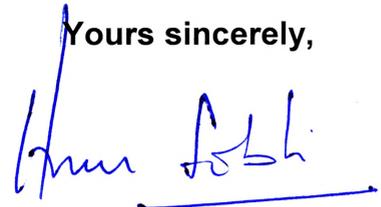
All incoming prisoners shall be screened for disabilities at the time of admission. Relevant prison records must reflect their specific needs to ensure suitable accommodations and assistance.

vi) Staff Training:

Prison staff shall undergo regular training to sensitize them to the rights, needs, and appropriate handling of prisoners with disabilities.

7. 'Prisons' being a 'State-List' subject, the State Governments and UT Administrations are requested to incorporate the above provisions in their respective **Prison Acts and Rules**, in line with the RPwD Act, 2016 for ensuring accessibility, inclusion, and appropriate care for prisoners with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



(Arun Sobti)

Director (Prison Reforms)

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Section E

6. Standards for Modern Prison / Jail Buildings

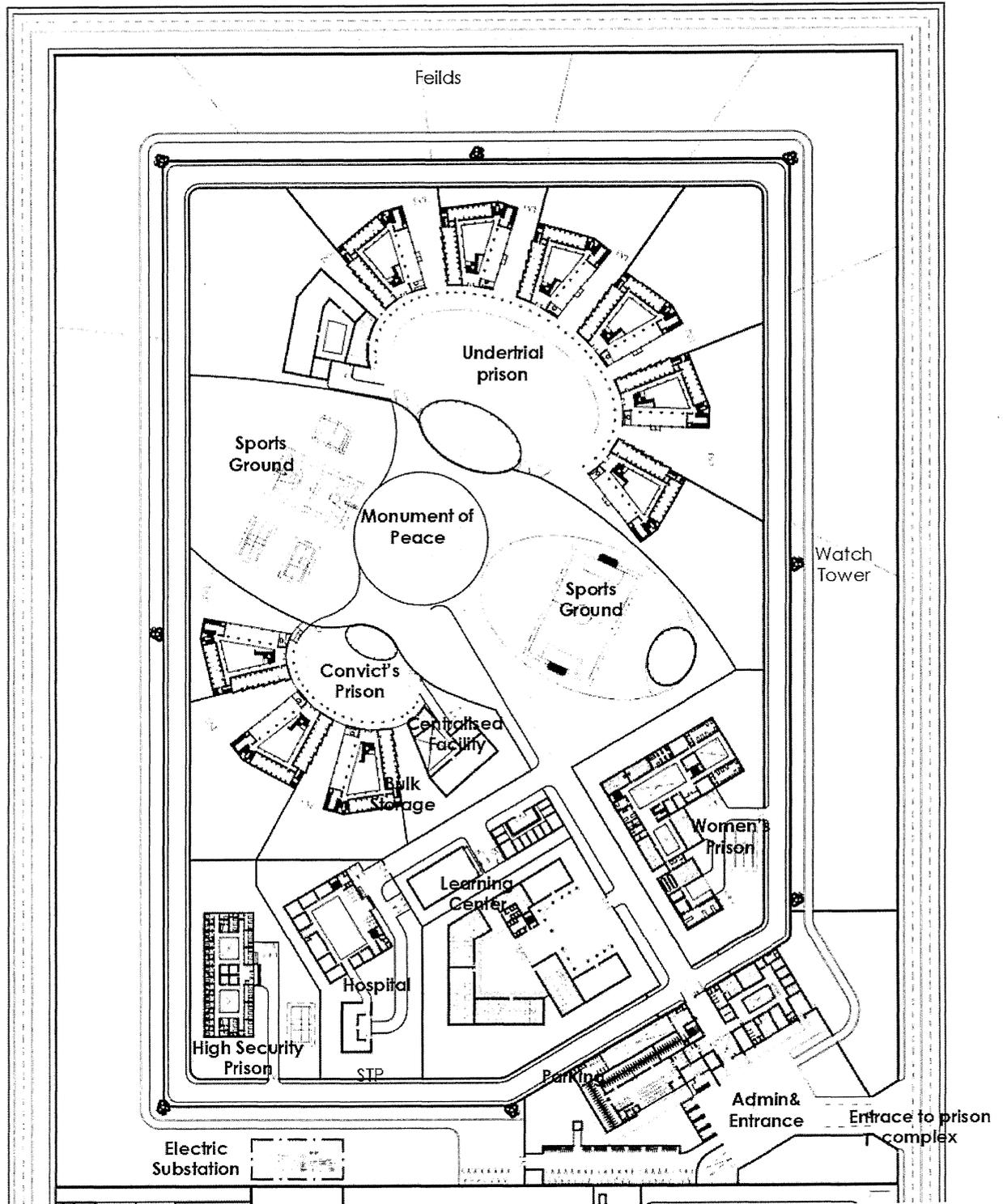
6.1 A National level Architectural Design Idea Competition for Jails was initiated by BPRD keeping following points as the basis to improve upon the existing Prison designs, so as to rehabilitate the inmates in jail by providing the best possible humane environment:

- 1) Concept and design of various categories of Prisons, such as for male under-trials, male convicts, women's prison, high security ward, etc. depicting the interrelationship of various spaces, sizes and their layout in the Prison complex.
- 2) Land/area requirement for various categories of prisons
- 3) Capacity of jails with possibilities of future expansion
- 4) Integration of latest technology required for security and ease of administration of jails at the planning and construction stages
- 5) Environment friendly design
- 6) Best practices to address the following issues:
 - a) Overcrowding of inmates
 - b) Security, surveillance, physical separation, confinement in prisons
 - c) Health and Hygiene of inmates in terms of sanitation, drinking water, cooking, dining, etc.
 - d) Residential accommodation for staff in jail complex, not exceeding 20% of the gross land area.
 - e) Road layout is such that it provides single point vehicle access to each building.

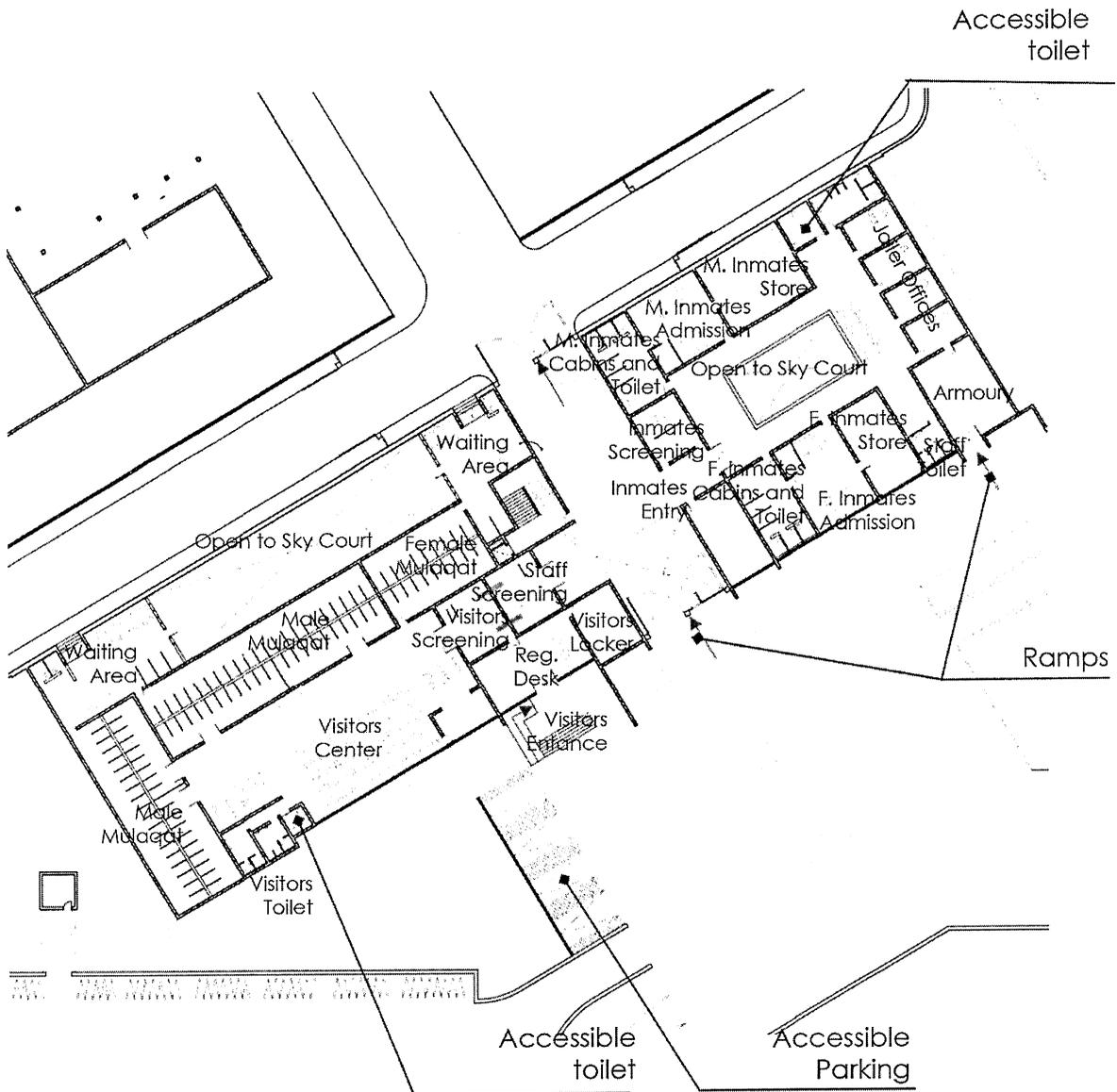
f) Three wall system required on three sides of the jails and not on the residential complex side.

6.2 With above guidelines, a national level architectural design for jails was evolved, taking care of **accessibility concept for Persons with disabilities** as well, in terms of Accessible Routes/ Pathways and Ramps, Parking, Entrance to the building, Corridors, Reception and Lobby Area, Handrails, Elevators and Lifts, Staircase, Toilets, Doors, Drinking Water, Signage, etc. Some of the modern Prison **drawings with accessibility concepts** are as below: -

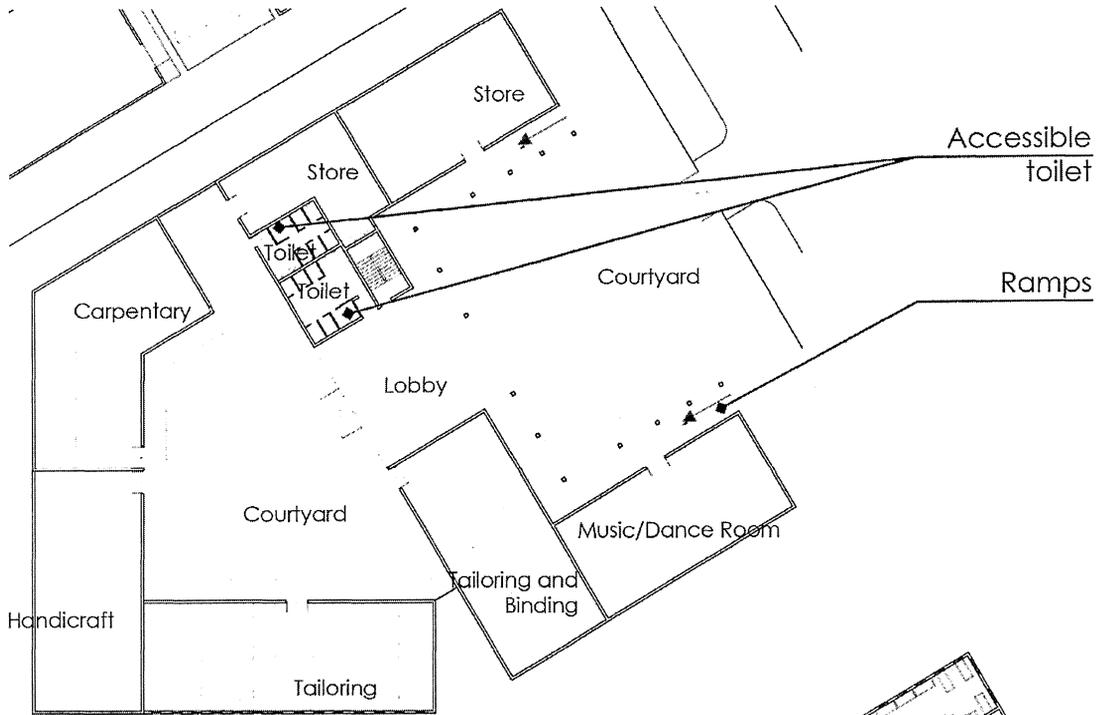
Prison Master Plan



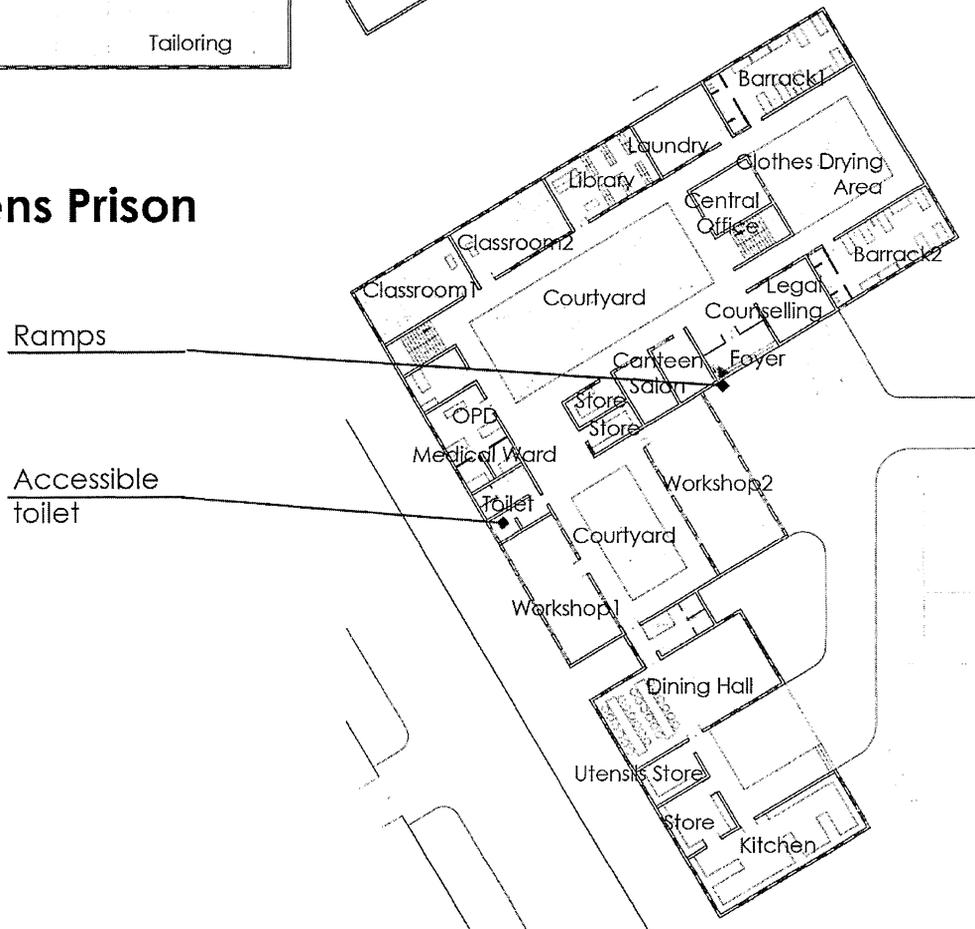
Admin Block



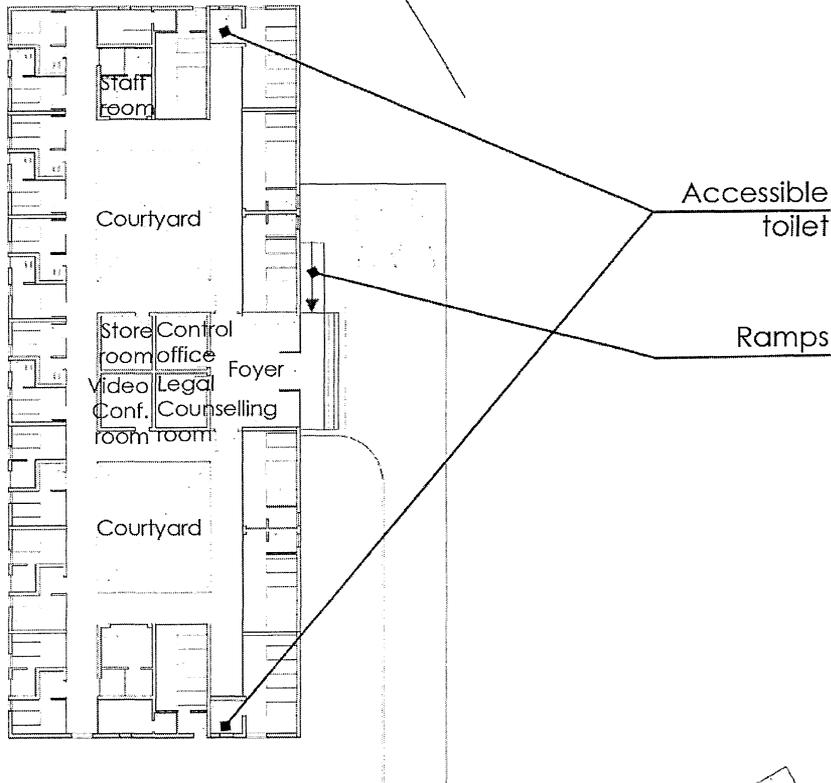
Learning Center



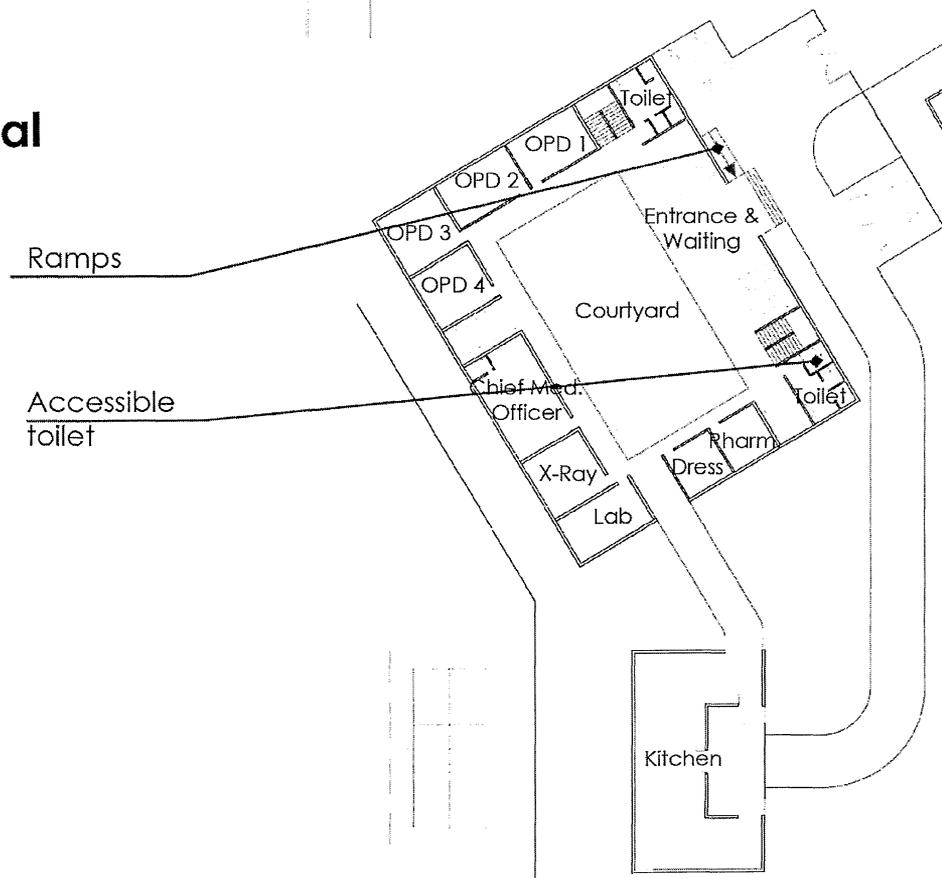
Womens Prison



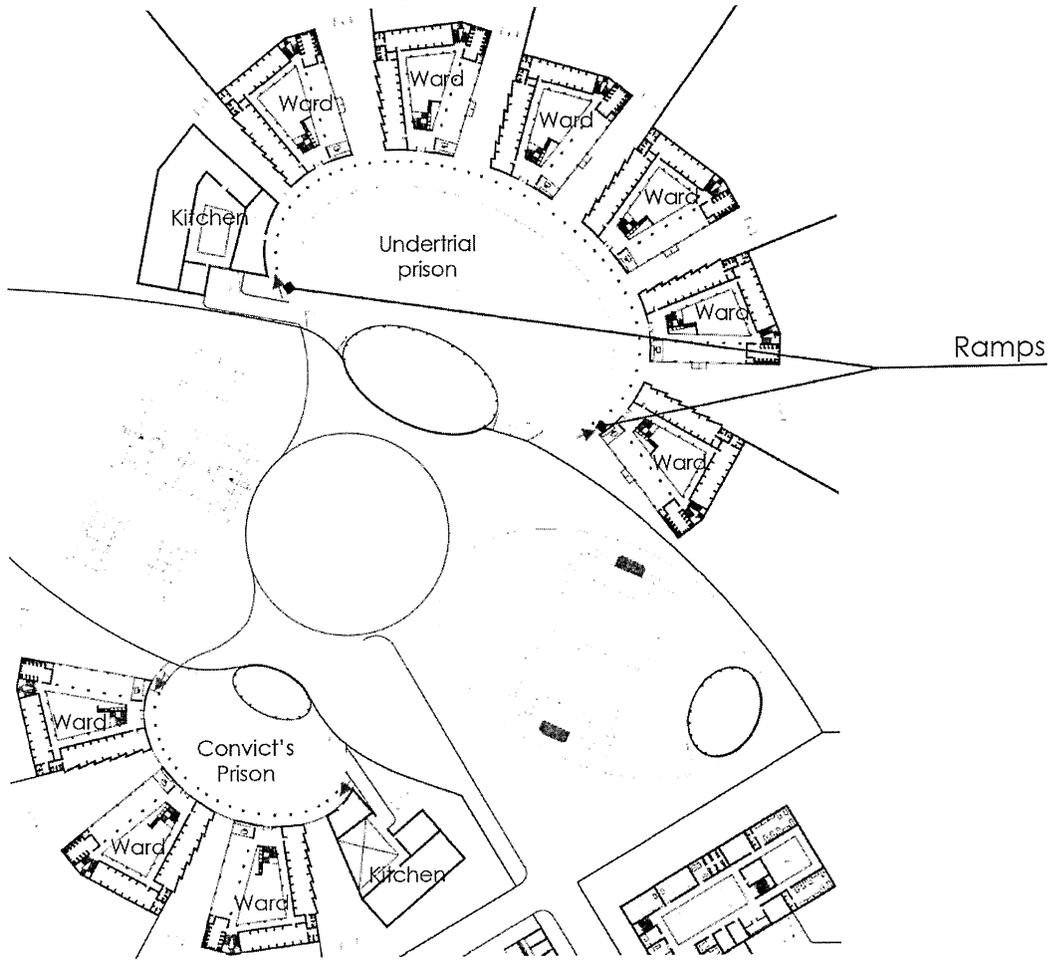
High Security Prison



Hospital



Mens Prison Complex

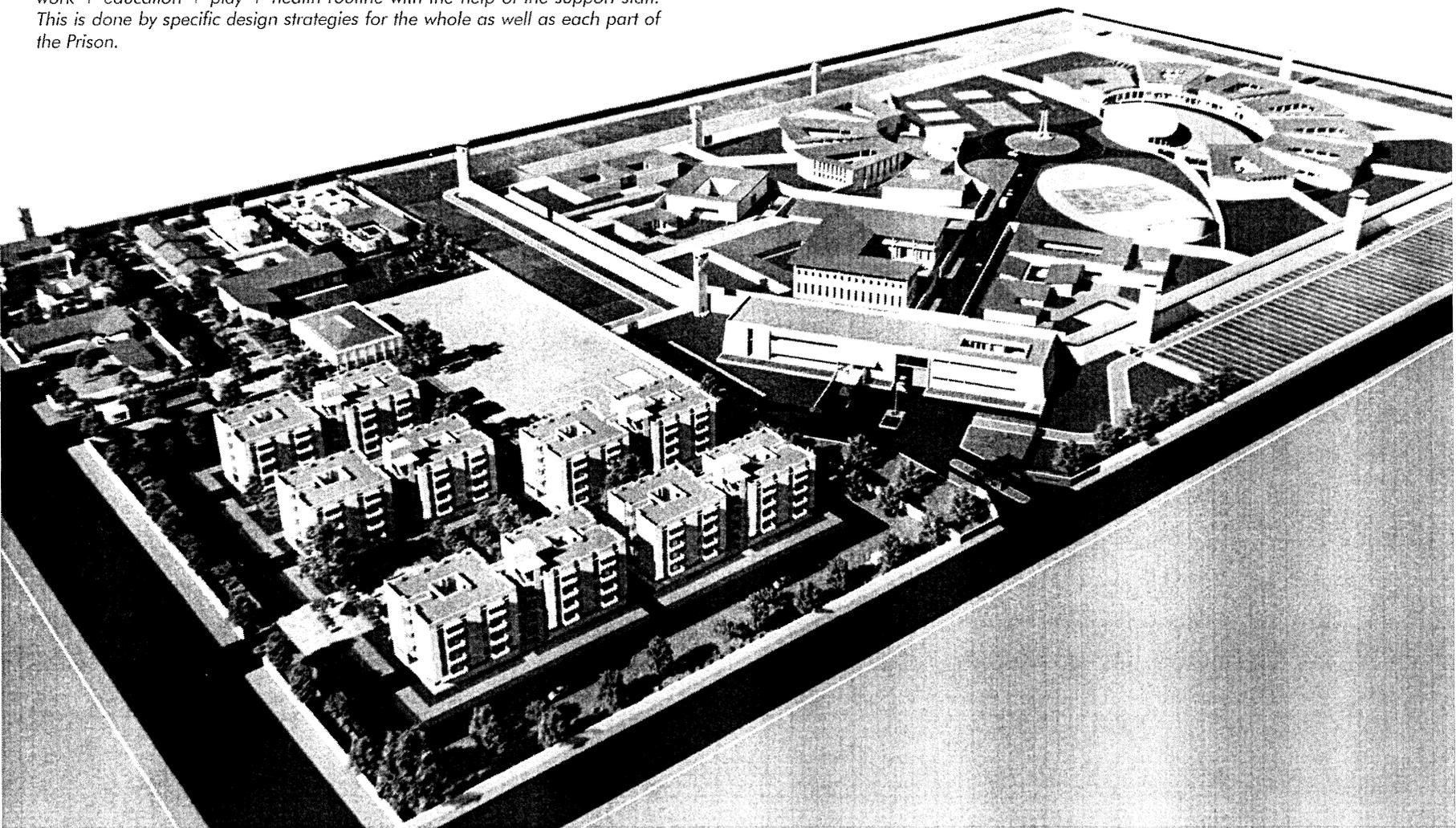


Barrack For Mens Prison



Pictorial View of a Modern Prison Design-1

The design of Central Prison should enable a place that is humane, secure and easy to administer. It should provide a setting for the prisoner to reform through work + education + play + health routine with the help of the support staff. This is done by specific design strategies for the whole as well as each part of the Prison.



Pictorial View of a Modern Prison Design-2

